

THE IOLA REGISTER.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.

CHAS. F. SCOTT.

THE WORLD AT LARGE.

Summary of the Daily News.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

The post office department and the National Association of Railway Postal Clerks will make an effort to secure the passage of a bill for the relief of injured and disabled railway mail employees by the present session of congress. All moneys to be paid to disabled clerks will be paid out of a relief fund drawn from the salaries of all postal clerks who are eligible to its ranks.

Secretary Wilson proposes to make the department of agriculture a sort of clearing house for the publication of important state reports. When a really valuable result is achieved by an experiment station he intends to publish an account of the process and send it out to farmers all over the country.

The president has nominated Harold M. Sewall, son of the late democratic candidate for vice president, to be minister to Hawaii.

Congressman William S. Holman, of Indiana, died at Washington on the 23d of spinal meningitis. He had been a member of 16 congresses.

A MEMORIAL was on the 23d presented to the president by the executive council of the Federation of Labor. It recites the lack of employment, stagnant trade, and asks for the enactment of remedial legislation. Amendments to the federal eight-hour law, restriction of immigration, reform in the national banking system and the issuance of the currency, and liberal appropriations for public works and the improvement of rivers and harbors are asked for.

The republican members of the senate finance committee have agreed either to strike out the retroactive provision of the Dingley bill or to so amend it as to pave the way for its being stricken out in conference and have so notified the democratic members of the committee.

THERE was on file with the civil service commission in Washington on the 23d over 12,000 applications for examination, all of which applicants will have their fitness to hold office tested during the coming spring. The number of applicants is far in excess of the needs of the service and will place upon the eligible lists thousands of men and women who will have their hopes raised only to be disappointed.

The immigration commissioner is investigating a report that Japanese are coming into the United States under contract, many arriving at San Francisco from Hawaii and British Columbia to work in California orchards and fields.

The Dawes commission reached an agreement with the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian commissioners at Atoka, I. T., on the 23d for a division of their lands.

GEN. MILES, of the United States army, has been notified of the president's approval of his projected visit to the seat of war in Europe. He will leave Washington early in May and will be accompanied by Capt. M. B. Maus, of his personal staff.

GENERAL NEWS.

CHURCH circles at Americus, Ga., were recently agitated over a Chinaman. The white Baptists recently converted the celestial and took him into full communion. He soon afterwards married a negro, and neither the whites nor the blacks will now give him their trade.

A CAR load of food supplies and clothing was recently sent from Burlington, Ia., to the flood sufferers at Oakville, Ia. They were badly needed, as many persons had to camp on levees and knolls, the district being submerged.

ARRANGEMENTS have been perfected at Fort Worth, Tex., for a battle of flowers and flower carnival in conjunction with a three days' Mayfest, beginning May 10.

HARRY A. CASSIN, the cashier of the Georgia Loan & Banking Co., at Atlanta, Ga., has confessed to being a defaulter to the extent of \$45,000. The astonishing discovery was made that the bank, which was supposed to be one of the most prosperous in the state, had hardly a cent's worth of assets. Instead of the shortage being \$45,000, it will be several times that sum, and it was believed that at least one other official will share a cell with Cassin.

AN extra freight train was running at high speed on the Iowa Central near Steamboat Rock, Ia., when the front trucks of the engine gave way, sending the entire train of 25 cars into a ditch, wrecking some of them badly. The engineer was thought to be fatally injured.

A FIRE recently destroyed Kleppish's queensware store at Burlington, Ia., causing a loss of \$35,000 on stock and \$5,000 on building.

THE opinion was unanimous in London on the 25th that the war between Greece and Turkey would soon be closed and this view was said to be shared by the powers, who were preparing to intervene.

Mrs. PAGAN BOURLAND shot and killed Maud Allen at Fort Smith, Ark., because she had alienated the affections of Mr. Bourland.

JOHN RAAP, a wholesale liquor dealer at Chicago, was shot and killed by his former confidential clerk, D. W. Braunschweig, who afterward put the revolver to his own temple and killed himself. Raap had got a warrant out for Braunschweig for being short in his accounts.

A WORLD'S record in swimming was made the other night at the Lurline baths in San Francisco. H. T. Brewer, the Lurline Swimming club's crack middle distance swimmer, swam 440 yards in the official time of 6:24.5. Cecilia, the Australian champion swimmer, has hitherto held the record, his time being 6:26.

CAPT. OTTO J. PAUL, formerly of the Ohio national guard, was said to be organizing a company at Dayton, O., to go to Greece.

FOUR young people were out skiff riding on the river at Park's Mills, near Cumberland Falls, Ky., and got into the current and were swept over the dam and drowned.

AN appeal has been sent to Clara Barton to come to the rescue of starving pacificos in Cuba, whose condition is daily growing more heartrending. Children are dying in the streets of Matanzas and babies have been found dead in the arms of exhausted mothers. Whole villages of living skeletons in bark huts are praying for death to release them from their suffering.

THREE boys, while fishing near Webster City, Ia., gathered some wild parsnips and ate them. As a result two were reported dead and the other at death's door.

As a result of the warning of the vigilance committee not a colored man is left at the town of Davis, I. T.

A SERIES of cloudbursts and heavy wind occurred in and around Eufaula, I. T., on the night of the 24th. Farm houses, fences and crops were washed away and considerable damage done.

A SEVERE earthquake was felt at Cairo, Ill., at ten o'clock on the night of the 25th, lasting about 20 seconds. No particular damage was done.

The Greek warships bombarded Sante Quaranta on the 24th and destroyed great quantities of Turkish stores and munitions of war. The Greek army under Prince Constantine was defeated at Mati and forced to abandon Tynanos and Larissa and remove the headquarters to Phalaros.

ON Beaver creek, about 30 miles from Pikeville, Ky., the home of Tom Darben, a logging man, was burned and his wife and four children perished. Tom Darben was absent in Virginia.

THE grand jury at Cincinnati returned an indictment against George Hobson, county clerk, for embezzlement of \$15,000 and misconduct in office.

WHILE Milton Bradbury, living near Garber, Ok., was fighting a prairie fire on his farm his five-year-old son was caught in it and was burned to death.

FIVE thousand people saw Jimmy Barry and Jimmy Anthony, bantam weights, fight 20 rounds before the National Athletic club at San Francisco on the 23d. The fight was for a \$2,000 purse, 75 per cent to the winner, at 115 pounds. Barry had the best of it all through and after the 20th round he was declared the bantam champion of the world.

AT Williamston, 14 miles east of Lansing, Mich., Mrs. Albert Hovey, aged 32 years, murdered her aged mother-in-law with an ax. She severed the head from the body and then poured oil on the lifeless body and set it on fire.

ACCORDING to Bradstreet's report there were 216 business failures throughout the United States for the week ended the 23d, against 249 in the corresponding week last year.

TWO convicts in San Quentin (Cal.) prison, W. R. Kelley and Frank Wheelock, fought with jute knives on the 23d before the guards could interfere. Kelley was killed and Wheelock was reported dying.

LITTLE hope is entertained by western railway managers that the United States senate will pass the Foraker pooling bill. They admit the sentiment of the people in the west is decidedly hostile to a legalization of railroad pools and most of the senators of the western states, therefore, will refuse to vote for Foraker's bill.

THE extensive barn of W. C. Lawrence, located at Lexington, Ind., was consumed by fire. Five hundred bushels of grain and many farming implements were burned and 11 head of horses perished.

A DESPERATE attempt by a political fanatic was made on the 22d to assassinate King Humbert with a knife, but the man was seized by the guards before he had done any harm. The king was on his way to the races.

NANCY MCKINLEY, mother of the president, celebrated her 88th birthday anniversary at her home at Canton, O., on the 22d. She was in excellent health, barring slight attacks of rheumatism.

OVER 1,200 Greeks, at a mass meeting at Chicago the other night, resolved to do all they could to aid their native country in the war with Turkey. Amid great enthusiasm, 400 of them signed the muster rolls, and promised to be ready to start for New York within a few hours. From all sources came help to pay the passage of the volunteers.

A WRECK occurred nine miles north of Evergreen, Ala., to a passenger train on the Louisville & Nashville railroad. Engineer Adams, his fireman and two negroes were fatally injured and two other negroes, believed to be tramps, were severely hurt. It was thought that four negro tramps, who were seen in the neighborhood shortly before the accident occurred, removed the rails just south of the trestle. The engine, caboose, baggage and mail cars were completely wrecked.

At the Methodist church at Crawfordsville, Ind., the minister, who was about to marry Henry Humphreys and Anna Jones, asked, as was customary, if there was any objection to the marriage, when Miss Hattie Chavis leaped up with an infant in her arms and declared the groom to be the child's father, but the clergyman ignored her and rushed the ceremony through. Later on Miss Chavis was led off by the police as she tried to enter the reception armed with a dagger.

AN amateur bull fight at Leon, Mex., two of the ring men were gored to death. One of the bulls also broke over the barricade and played havoc with the audience, several persons being wounded.

THREE negro boys named Baird were cremated near McIntosh, Ala. The mother of the little fellows had locked them in the shanty and went for a visit to a neighbor and the house caught fire.

As a result of a heavy storm and subsequent rise of the Blue river 200 houses were flooded and 1,100 people driven from their homes at Beatrice, Neb.

THE paymaster of the Pleasant Valley Coal Co. was held up at Castle Gate, Utah, by two mounted men and compelled to give over \$7,500 he had to pay the company's men.

A CURFEW ordinance has been enacted at Springfield, O., and all boys and girls under 16 years of age must be off the streets by eight o'clock in the winter and nine in the summer.

TILLIE ANDERSON, the bicyclist, broke the half mile woman's record, flying start, at Youngstown, O., on the 20th, riding the distance in 52.3-5 seconds. She was paced by a tandem and the course was straight away.

BOB PAYNE, a negro desperado, shot and killed Mrs. Lulu Tyres at Birmingham, Ala. He was wanted on some charges and he thought some boards at Mrs. Tyres' house had informed on him and entered the place and tried to shoot them, but missed and killed Mrs. Tyres.

WILHELM FISCHER, aged 75 and very infirm, was jailed at Nebraska City, Neb., charged with horse stealing. He confessed the theft of a team at Lincoln, one at Berlin and two in Kansas.

THORODOR HAYMEYER, vice president of the American Sugar Refining Co., died in New York on the 25th.

ISAIDORE WEBER shot his four-year-old daughter and then killed himself at New York on the 26th. Weber was a hard drinker and used his wife badly and she had been obliged to turn him out of doors.

THE big Iowa elevator at Peoria, Ill., was destroyed by fire the other night, entailing a loss of \$230,000. About 100,000 bushels of grain and 30 box cars were burned.

A DISPATCH on the 27th said that the most serious feature of the Greco-Turkish emergency was the revolutionary feeling displayed at Athens. A feeling of anger against the palace party in the conduct of the campaign was increasing and arrangements, it was reported, were being made to enable the royal family to leave the country hastily in case of necessity.

THE managers of Peter Maher and Tom Sharkey on the 25th met representatives of a sporting club and accepted a proposition for a fight between the principals for a \$10,000 purse to take place in the vicinity of New York between May 25 and June 10 next.

THE Connecticut house on the 24th passed a bill prohibiting all Sunday labor or sport.

A FIRE at Whitney's Point, near Birmingham, N. Y., recently destroyed property to the value of \$250,000.

COL. ROBERT MCINTOSH, of Guthrie, Ok., has been commissioned recruiting officer for Oklahoma for the American Volunteer legion, an organization recently formed for the invasion of Cuba in behalf of the insurgents.

THE town of Omer, 34 miles north of Bay City, Mich., was visited by a tornado on the night of the 24th. Mr. and Mrs. Hagley were blown 60 feet into the air and were fatally injured. Many buildings were blown down.

SOPHIE BOSWELL was recently crowned queen of the gypsies of the United States in an open field near East St. Louis in the presence of several hundred gypsies and many visitors.

THE annual dinner of the Reform club took place at New York on the 24th. Ex-President Cleveland responded to the toast of "Present Problems," ex-Secretary Carlisle to that of "Sound Currency," and ex-Postmaster-General Wilson to that of "Tariff Reform." Several other speeches were made by noted gold democrats.

THE man who was hypnotized and buried in the ground for three days at Simcoe, Ont., was disinterred when the time had elapsed and great crowds followed the box to the opera house. It required five men to control the subject in his struggles while he was being brought back to consciousness and the box was smashed to pieces.

THE Cook County (Ill.) Business Men's association is getting up a big demonstration for May 30 for the purpose of arousing sentiment against the big department stores.

THE paper mills at Ellsworth, Ind., were totally destroyed by fire entailing a loss of \$75,000.

FIRE broke out on the 22d in the town of Pottersville, near Homestead, Pa., and 30 houses were burned. Pottersville is within the Carnegie yards and consisted of about 400 frame dwellings, which were built at the time of the strike in 1892. The place is the home of about 300 or 400 families, and has a population of about 1,000. No household effects were saved by the residents.

THE Paris Journal's correspondent at Odessa, Russia, telegraphed on the 22d that all the necessary measures had been taken at Sebastopol for the eventual intervention of Russia in the war between Turkey and Greece.

THE corner stone of the Transmississippi exposition arch of the states was laid on the 22d at Omaha, Neb., after a long parade of military and civic societies. Grand Master Phelps, of the Nebraska masons, officiated. Addresses were made by Mayor Broatch, Lieut. Gov. Harris and ex-Secretary of Agriculture Morton.

EDITOR HINTON, of the Albia (Ia.) Defender, was fatally assaulted by John Jamison, a coal miner, who had taken offense at an item in Hinton's paper.

DR. W. GODFREY HUNTER published a card at Frankfort, Ky., on the 21st formally withdrawing as the caucus nominee for United States senator.

THE Western Baseball league season of '97 opened in Indianapolis, Ind., on the 21st with the Grand Rapids club. The score was 10 to 0 in favor of Indianapolis.

THE 22d was the eighth anniversary of the opening of original Oklahoma to settlement and the day was celebrated as a general holiday all over the territory.

As the result of charges brought against ex-Grain Inspector Dwight W. Andrews at Chicago the investigating committee of the legislature investigated the affairs of the state grain inspector's office. It is said that there is a shortage of \$45,000 in his accounts.

A SPECIAL from Nashville, Tenn., on the 21st said that five lives had been lost in the flooded lands of Lake county. A skiff was upset, causing the drowning of Joseph Gans and his entire family, wife, two sons and a daughter.

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TALMAGE'S SERMON.

Lessons Drawn from the Beautiful Story of Ruth and Boaz.

How Trouble Develops Character—Beauty of Unfaltering Friendship—Paths Which Lead from Darkness to Light—Value of Gleaning.

Dr. Talmage took the beautiful story of Ruth, the gleaner, as the subject of his latest discourse. The text:

And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.—Ruth 2:3.

The time that Ruth and Naomi arrive at Bethlehem is harvest time. It was the custom when a sheaf fell from a load in the harvest field for the reapers to refuse to gather it up; that was to be left for the poor who might happen to come along that way. If there were handfuls of grain scattered across the field after the main harvest had been reaped, instead of raking it, as farmers do now, it was, by the custom of the land, left in its place, so that the poor, coming along that way, might glean it and get their bread. But you say: "What is the use of all these harvest fields to Ruth and Naomi?" Naomi is too old and feeble to go out and toil in the sun; and can you expect that Ruth, the young and the beautiful, should tan her cheeks and blister her hands in the harvest field?"



REV. TALMAGE.

Boaz owns a large farm, and he goes out to see the reapers gather in the grain. Coming there, right behind the swarthy, sun-browned reapers, he beholds a beautiful woman gleaning—a woman more fit to bend to a harp or sit upon a throne than to stoop among the sheaves. Ah, that was an eventful day!

It was love at first sight. Boaz forms an attachment for the womanly gleaner—an attachment full of undying interest to the church of God in all ages; while Ruth, with an ephah, or nearly a bushel of barley, goes home to Naomi to tell her the successes and adventures of the day. That Ruth, who left her native land of Moab in darkness, and traveled through an undying affection for her mother-in-law, is in the harvest field of Boaz, is affianced to one of the best families in Judah, and becomes in after-time the ancestress of Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory! Out of so dark a night did there ever dawn so bright a morning?

I learn, in the first place, from this subject how trouble develops character. It was bereavement, poverty and exile that developed, illustrated and announced to all ages the sublimity of Ruth's character. That is a very unfortunate man who has no trouble. It was sorrow that made John Bunyan the better dreamer, and Dr. Young the better poet, and O'Connell the better orator, and Bishop Hall the better preacher, and Havelock the better soldier, and Kitto the better encyclopedist, and Ruth the better daughter-in-law.

I once asked an old man in regard to his pastor, who was a very brilliant man, "Why is it that your pastor, so very brilliant, seems to have so little heart and tenderness in his sermons?" "Well," he replied, "the reason is, our pastor has never had any trouble. When misfortune comes upon him, his style will be different." After awhile the Lord took a child out of that pastor's house; and though the preacher was just as brilliant as he was before, oh, the warmth, the tenderness of his discourses! The fact is, that trouble is a great educator. You see sometimes a musician sit down at an instrument, and his execution is cold and formal and unfeeling. The reason is that all his life he has been prosperous. But let misfortune or bereavement come to that man, and he sits down at the instrument, and you discover the pathos in the first sweep of the keys.

Misfortune and trials are great educators. A young doctor comes into a sick room where there is a dying child. Perhaps he is very rough in his manner, and very rough in his answer to the pulse, and rough in his answer to the mother's anxious question; but years roll on, and there has been one dead in his own house; and now he comes into the sick room, and with tearful eye he looks at the dying child, and he says: "Oh, how this reminds me of my Charlie!" Trouble, the great educator. Sorrow—I see its touch in the grandest painting; I hear its tremor in the sweetest song; I feel its power in the mightiest argument.

Grecian mythology said that the fountain of Hippocrene was struck out by the foot of the winged horse Pegasus. I have often noticed in life that the brightest and most beautiful fountains of Christain comfort and spiritual life have been struck out by the iron-shod hoof of disaster and calamity. I see Daniel's courage best by the flash of Nebuchadnezzar's furnace. I see Paul's prowess best when I find him on the foundering ship under the glare of the lightning in the breakers of Melita. God crowns his children amid the howling of wild beasts and the chopping of blood-splashed guillotine and the crackling fires of martyrdom. It took the persecutions of Marcus Aurelius to develop Polycarp and Justin Martyr. It took all the hostilities against the Scotch Covenanters and the fury of Lord Claverhouse to develop James Renwick and Andrew Melville and Hugh McKail, the glorious martyrs of Scotch history. It took the stormy sea, and the December blast, and the desolate New England coast and the war-whoop of savages to show forth the prowess of the pilgrim fathers.

When amid the storms they sang, And the stars heard, and the sea sang, And the sounding aisles of the dim wood, Rang to the anthems of the free.

It took all our past national disasters, and it takes all our present national sorrows to lift up our nation on that high career where it will march long after the foreign aristocracies that have mocked and tyrannies that have jeered, shall be swept down under the omnipotent wrath of God, who hates despotism, and who, by the strength of His own red right arm, will make all men free. And so it is individually, and in the family, and in the church, and in the world, that through darkness and storm and trouble men, women, churches, nations, are developed.

Again, I see in my text the beauty of unfaltering friendship. I suppose there were plenty of friends for Naomi while she was in prosperity; but of all her acquaintances, how many were willing to tangle off with her toward Judah when she had to make that lonely journey? One—the heroine of my text. One—absolutely one. I suppose when Naomi's husband was living, and they had plenty of money, and all things went well, they had a great many callers; but I suppose that after her husband died, and her property went, and she got old and poor, she was not troubled very much with callers. All the birds that sung in the bower while the sun shone have gone to their nests, now the night has fallen.

Oh, these beautiful sunflowers that spread out their color in the morning hour! But they are always asleep when the sun is going down! Job had plenty of friends when he was the richest man in Uz; but when his property went and the trials came, then there were none so much that pestered as Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite.

Life often seems to be a mere game, where the successful player pulls down all the other men into his own lap. Let suspicions arise about a man's character, and he becomes like a bank in a panic, and all the imputations rush on him and break down in a day that character which in due time would have had strength to defend itself. There are reputations that have been half a century in building which go down under one push, as a vast temple is consumed by the touch of a sulphurous match. A hog can uproot a century plant.

In this world, so full of heartlessness and hypocrisy, how thrilling it is to find some friend as faithful in days of adversity as in days of prosperity! David had such a friend in Hushai; the Jews had such a friend in Mordecai, who never forgot their cause; Paul had such a friend in Onesiphorus, who visited him in jail; Christ had such in the Marys, who adhered to Him on the cross; Naomi had such a one in Ruth, who cried out: "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go; and whither thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God; where thou diest will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if I ought but death part thee and me."

Again, I learn from this subject that paths which open in hardship and darkness often come out in places of joy. When Ruth started from Moab toward Jerusalem, to go along with her mother-in-law, the people said: "Oh, what a foolish creature to go away from her father's house, to be carried with a poor old woman toward the land of Judah! They won't live to get across the desert. They will be drowned in the sea or the jackals of the wilderness will destroy them." It was a very dark morning when Ruth started off with Naomi; but behold her in my text in the harvest field of Boaz, to be affianced to one of the lords of the land, and become one of the grandmothers of Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. And so it often is that a path which often starts very darkly ends very brightly.

When you started out for Heaven, oh, how dark was the hour of conviction—how Sinai thundered, and devils tormented, and the darkness thickened! All the sins of your life pounced upon you, and it was the darkest hour you ever saw when you first found out your sins. After awhile you went into the harvest field of God's mercy; you began to glean in the fields of divine promise, and you had more sheaves than you could carry, as the voice of God addressed you, saying: "Blessed is the man whose transgressions are forgiven and whose sins are covered." A very dark starting in conviction, a very bright ending in the pardon and the hope and the triumph of the gospel!

So, very often in our worldly business or in our spiritual career we start off on a very dark path. We must go. The flesh may shrink back, but there is a voice within, or a voice from above, saying, "You must go," and we have to drink the gall, and we have to carry the cross, and we have to traverse the desert, and we are pounded and flailed of misrepresentation and abuse, and we have to urge our way through 10,000 obstacles that have been slain by our own right arm. We have to ford the river, we have to climb the mountain, we have to storm the castle; but, blessed be God, the day of rest and reward will come. On the tip-top of the captured battlements we will shout the victory; if not in this world, then in that world where there is no gall to drink, no burdens to carry, no battles to fight. How do I know it? Know it! I know it because God says so: "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat, for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall lead them to living fountains of water, and God shall wipe all tears from their eyes."

It was very hard for Noah to endure the scoffing of the people in his day while he was trying to build the ark, and was every morning quizzed about his old boat that would never be of any practical use; but when the deluge came, and the tops of the mountains disappeared like the backs of sea-monsters, and the elements, lashed up in fury, clapped their hands over a drowned world, then Noah in the ark rejoiced in his own safety and in the

safety of his family, and looked out on the wreck of a ruined earth.

Christ, hounded of persecutors, denied a pillow, worse maltreated than the thieves on either side of the cross, human hate smacking its lips in satisfaction after it had been draining His last drop of blood, the sheeted dead bursting from the sepulchres at His crucifixion. Tell me, O Gethsemane and Golgotha, were there ever darker times than those? Like the booming of the midnight sea against the rock, the surges of Christ's anguish beat against the gates of eternity, to be echoed back by all the thrones of Heaven and all the dungeons of hell. But the day of reward comes for Christ; all the pomp and dominion of this world are to be hung on His throne, crowned heads are to bow before Him on whose head are many crowns, and all the celestial worship is to come up at His feet, like the humming of the forest, like the rushing of the waters, like the thundering of the seas, while all Heaven, rising on their thrones, beat time with their scepters: "Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

That song of love, now low and far. Ere long shall swell from star to star; That light, the breaking day which tips The golden-spired Apocalypse.

Again, I see in my subject an illustration of the beauty of female industry.

Behold Ruth toiling in the harvest field under the hot sun, or at noon taking plain bread with the reapers, or eating the parched corn which Boaz handed to her. The customs of society, of course, have changed, and without the hardships and exposure to which Ruth was subjected, every intelligent woman will find something to do.

I know there is a sickly sentimentality on this subject. In some families there are persons of no practical service to the household or community; and though there are so many woes all around about them in the world, they spend their time languishing over a new pattern, or bursting into tears at midnight over the story of some lover who shot himself. They would not deign to look at Ruth carrying back the barley on her way home to her mother-in-law, Naomi. All this fastidiousness may seem to do very well while they are under the shelter of their father's house; but when the sharp winter of misfortune comes, what of these butterflies? Persons under indulgent parentage may get upon themselves habits of indolence; but when they come out into practical life their soul will recoil with disgust and chagrin. They will feel in their hearts what the poet so severely satirized when he said:

Fools are so awkward, things so impolite, They're elegantly pained from morning until night.

Through that gate of indolence how many men and women have marched, useless on earth, to a destroyed eternity! Spinola said to Sir Horace Vere, "Of what did your brother die?" "Of having nothing to do," was the answer. "Ah!" said Spinola, "that's enough to kill any general of us." Oh! can it be possible in this world, where there is so much suffering to be alleviated, so much darkness to be enlightened, and so many burdens to be carried, that there is any person who cannot find anything to do!

Mme. de Staël did a world of work in her time, and one day, while she was seated amid instruments of music, all of which she had mastered, and amid manuscript books which she had written, some one said to her, "How do you find time to attend to all these things?" "Oh," she replied, "these are the things I am proud of. My chief boast is in the fact that I have 17 trades, by any one of which I could make a livelihood if necessary." And if in secular spheres there is so much to be done, in spiritual work how vast the field! How many dying all around about us without one word of comfort! We want more Abigail, more Hannahs, more Rebekahs, more Marys, more Deborahs consecrated—body, mind, soul, to the Lord who bought them.

Once more I learn from my subject the value of gleaning.

Ruth going into that harvest field might have said: "There is a straw, and there is a straw, but what is a straw? I can't get any barley for myself or my mother-in-law out of these separate straws." No so, said the beautiful Ruth. She gathered two straws, and she put them together, and more straws, until she got enough to make a sheaf. Putting that down, she went and gathered more straws, until she had another sheaf, and another, and another, and another, and she brought them altogether, and she threshed them out, and she had an ephah of barley, nigh a bushel! O, that we might all be gleaners!

There are a few moments left worth the gleaning. Now, Ruth to the field! May each one have a measure full and running over! Oh, you gleaners, to the field! And if there be in your household an aged one or a sick relative that is not strong enough to come forth and toil in this field, then let Ruth take home to feeble Naomi this sheaf of gleaning: "Be that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." May the Lord God of Ruth and Naomi be our portion forever!

Women's Letters.

Women have a natural charm of expression and lightness of touch, which put the competing sex at a disadvantage. They can afford to allow a man the small criticism, passed by Sir Walter Scott, that they put the most interesting matter in their postscript. So, the lady, who added in her P. S., "You may observe by my altered signature that I am married." Further, it is said, they cannot do without a P. S. So, the wife, having won, as she thought, a small wager by writing without a postscript to her husband, adds one to ask, "Who has won the wager, William, you or I?"—Good Words.